



## Irish, GB and Global news 30th January

### IRISH NEWS

**Mothers Union sends £25,000 to Sudan to aid displaced people**



*South Sudan Refugees*

**Mothers' Union's Relief Fund Committee has sent a grant of £25,000 to aid the humanitarian response of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan & Sudan to thousands of displaced people in South Sudan.**

The funding will form part of the wider response of the Anglican Communion given to the local relief arm of the Church, SUDRA. This will be used to bring urgent food and medical aid to displaced families. A further grant of £25,000

has been agreed in principle by Mothers' Union which the organisation hopes to source from outside its membership.

Harriet Baka, Mothers' Union's development coordinator for the Province is part of the SUDRA Relief committee. Over the next few weeks SUDRA aim to help 83,000 displaced people who have fled the conflict within South Sudan.

Mother's Union has a unique role as one of the few Anglican mission agencies with a strong presence in South Sudan, with over 53,000 members and 30 trained development coordinators across the province. As well as providing immediate woman-power to deliver food and medical aid Mothers' Union will be a key part of the rebuilding of community life in the months ahead, using their training to deliver community reconciliation. Therefore, in addition to the relief funding, Mothers' Union will be raising funds for the ongoing work throughout 2014 in order to support the restoration that will be needed post-conflict.

Nicola Lawrence, Head of International Programmes said, "Our aim is to ensure we can support this work once the immediate need for aid is withdrawn and the news teams have come home. The people of South Sudan will rely heavily on women such as our 53,000 members as they seek to restore stable family life in the months ahead. We are committed to ensuring they receive a further £100,000 this year to ensure stable family life can be achieved in one of the most disadvantaged countries of the world."



## **Solas Project to Feature on Would You Believe This Sunday**

**This Sunday's *Would You Believe* programme on RTÉ One will feature Graham Jones (pictured) of the Solas Project and parishioner of St Catherine's, Thomas Street.**

Graham gave up a legal career to become "Head Gardener" – he doesn't like the term CEO – of The Solas Project, a community development charity that tries to match the talents and contributions of volunteers with the needs of young people in the Liberties area of South Inner City Dublin.

In a society which places ever increasing emphasis on the economy and the cost base, his choice to focus on a different set of values and to put his Christian faith into action is a challenge for himself and his family, but for him, the Solas Project represents the essence of community.

The Solas Project is run from St Catherine's Church and is supported by the United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough, along with other organisations. For more information on Solas see [www.solasproject.ie](http://www.solasproject.ie).

*Would You Believe? – Leap Of Faith* will be on Sunday February 2 from 10.30 pm to 11.00 pm on RTÉ One.

## A lighthouse for Strabane

**The Church of Ireland Parish of Camus-Juxta-Mourne, Christ Church Strabane, has embarked upon a new and exciting phase of ministry, not tried before in the history of the Congregation.**



The Rector and Select Vestry have launched the Lighthouse Centre to aid the Parish in its plans to achieve the Diocesan vision of Transforming Community: Radiating Christ.



Rev Mark Lennox commented that “the premises are essential in giving us an opportunity to reach into the community and meeting people at their point of need, while giving us freedom to experience different formats of worship”.

The main purpose of the building is to create a safe and secure environment, which will allow people to meet together in an informal manner for fellowship and to socialise, whilst creating a space to grow in faith and allow for outreach into the local community of Strabane.



The opening of the Lighthouse Centre co-insides with the Fresh Start Parish Mission with Bishop Ken Clarke, director of SAMS Ireland. Fresh Start is a week of events of which on three occasions the Lighthouse will be used. On Monday 20th January and Thursday 23rd January at 11am there was a coffee morning, at which everyone is invited to come along to. On Sunday 26th January from 10-10:45am there was an informal worship session where Bishop Ken Clarke gave a talk on “What’s Next?”

## **Bid to dismiss Cardinal Brady, Bishop of Kilmore lawsuit**

**A court is hearing an application by a Catholic bishop to dismiss an attempt by Belfast siblings to sue him and Cardinal Sean Brady over sex abuse.**

BBC - Brother and sister Mario and Maria Cafolla, from west Belfast, were abused by paedophile Fr Brendan Smyth.

Lawyers for Dr Leo O'Reilly, the Bishop of Kilmore, said the case should not go ahead due to a previous full and final settlement for all claims in the case.

They are suing Dr O'Reilly over the alleged failures of his predecessor.

They allege that the previous bishop, Francis McKiernan, was negligent for failing to take any adequate steps to ensure Smyth did not continue to perpetrate sexual assaults on them in the 1970s and 1980s.



*Cardinal Brady is being sued for his role as secretary to the Bishop of Kilmore*

Cardinal Brady, the primate of all-Ireland, is being sued in his personal capacity over his role as part-time secretary to Bishop McKiernan in 1975 during the investigation of complaints about Smyth, who has since died.

It is claimed that he and Bishop McKiernan failed to report to Irish police that signed complaints had been made against Smyth regarding his assaults on other children arising from two meetings in 1975.

The case, at Dublin High Court, is expected to last up to three days. - Update - The High Court in Dublin reserves its decision on an application by a Catholic bishop to dismiss cases being taken against him by three victims of paedophile priest Brendan Smyth.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-25942533>

## **Cork hospital Christian Unity Week service**



The Chaplaincy Team at the Bon Secours Hospital, Cork celebrated the International Week of Prayer for Christian Unity this year during a short prayer service in the Hospital Chapel which is located at the heart of the Hospital.

The Chaplaincy Team representing the Roman Catholic Church, the Church of Ireland and the Methodist Church led the service that was tailored to meet the needs of the hospital community and shared with the hospital community through the hospital television network. The theme for this year from St Paul's first letter to the Church at Corinth was "Is Christ Divided?". The ceremony highlighted the shared nature of ministry provided to all who are ill.

## **Dubin Black Santa Funds to be Handed Out to Charities**

**The 2013 Black Santa appeal at St Ann's Church, Dawson Street, raised almost €28,000. The funds collected will be distributed to the various charities on Sunday March 2 at 11.00 am. The preacher that morning will**



***Archbishop Michael Jackson, Lord Mayor Oisín Quinn and Revd David Gillespie with the choir of Kildare Place School at the launch of Black Santa 2013.***

**be the Bishop of Meath and Kildare, the Most Revd Pat Storey.**

Among the charities to benefit this year will be St Vincent de Paul, The Salvation Army, Protestant Aid, Trust, The Simon Community, The Solas project run by St Catherine's in Thomas Street, Bishops' Appeal and the Laura Lynn Foundation.



The figure collected was slightly lower than previous years due to terrible weather conditions in the run up to Christmas. However, the Vicar of St Ann's, the Revd David Gillespie, was pleased by the response to the appeal and generosity of the public.

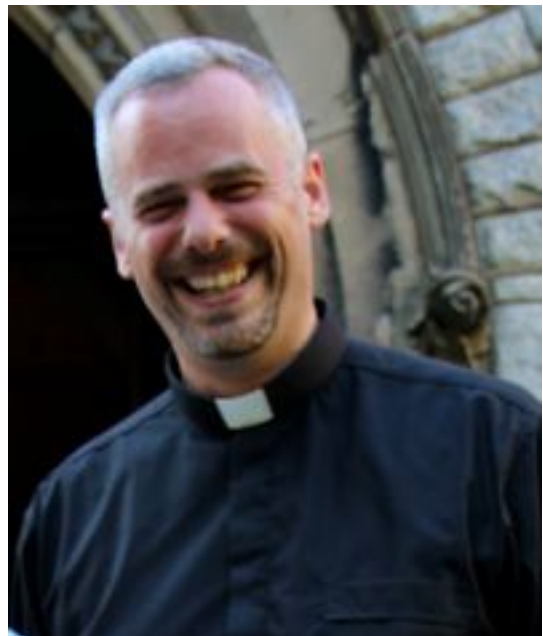
"All in all I am very happy with how it has all gone. To raise €28,000 in the present economic climate, and in the midst of such dreadful weather, was fantastic. We look forward to the appeal in St Ann's each year but it would be remiss of me if I didn't thank the small team of people who feed the visiting choirs, count and bank the money and provide cover for the clergy when required. Our caretaker, Mr Fred Deane is a great help in this regard, and is a very willing assistant to Black Santa! I am also grateful to the school choirs who joined us every day. They were just great and added a real festive feel to Dawson Street with their Christmas music," the vicar stated.

The Black Santa sit out is modeled on a similar appeal, which has been run by successive Deans of St Anne's Cathedral in Belfast for many years. It became known as the Black Santa appeal because of the long heavy black cloaks worn by the clergy to keep out the cold.

## **Rural Dean appointed**

**The Revd Andrew McCroskery (pictured) has been appointed the new Rural Dean of St Ann's Deanery, Dublin.**

Archbishop Michael Jackson made the appointment following the resignation of Chancellor Neil McEndoo. Archdeacon David Pierpoint wished the new Rural Dean well in his position and took the opportunity to thank Chancellor McEndoo for his dedicated work in St Ann's Deanery over many years. Mr McCroskery has been Rector of St Bartholomew's, Clyde Road, since 2008.



## **Retreat in the City 21**

**Retreat in the City will be held 21 – 23 February, 2014. In the historic surroundings of Christ Church cathedral, Dublin.**

The retreat is designed to help participants find peace in the midst of the busyness of the city centre by learning how to create space for peace and to connect with God. Sue Grier of Immanuel Christian Retreat Centre in Ramelton, Donegal, will be leading sessions on St Bonaventure's The Tree of Life. For further information please email [garth.bunting@cccdub.ie](mailto:garth.bunting@cccdub.ie) or visit [www.christchurchdublin.ie](http://www.christchurchdublin.ie) or to book please call 01 677 8099.

## Bible play performed to packed house

**A comic play based on the Bible which was originally banned from a theatre in County Antrim played to a full house of 400 people on Wednesday.**

Read more:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-25953679>

## GB NEWS

### Scottish Catholics are being desperately wooed by the SNP; they could swing the result

The big leap in support for Scottish independence, [as shown by the ICM's recent poll](#), is a tribute to the campaigning zeal of the SNP. They and their radical Left allies dominate the public spaces in west-central

Scotland where often the pro-unionist "Better Together" folk are hardly to be seen.



Daily Telegraph - Other surveys show that voters living in economic blackspots are increasingly drawn towards territorial separation. A high proportion will be Catholics,

descendants of Irish immigrants. Historically, they clung to the Labour Party for protection and modest advancement. Many were scared that any kind of



Scottish self-rule would place them under the control of some of their fiercest detractors.

But Catholics have become far more volatile. No less than 43 per cent of those who voted backed the SNP in the 2011 Holyrood election. I will stick my neck out and predict that if further good polls prepare the way for a Yes vote in the September referendum, Scotland's 850,000 Catholics will have been the key swing group.

Many of the campaigners swelling the pro-SNP ranks belong to the sizeable Scottish radical Left. They constantly point out to voters in downscale areas that they are economic victims of southern English overlords who are out to dispossess them. Thus the rhetoric of class conflict blends in neatly with a naked ethnocentric appeal.

Catholics with stubborn loyalties to Irish cultural icons are now hailed by the SNP as fellow underdogs. Their solidarity derives from being roughed up by "the British" in times past.

The SNP's wooing of an ethnic enclave still distrusted by plenty of other Scots briefly faltered in 2012. As part of its obsession with micro-managing the lives of ordinary Scots, it passed a bill designed to bring order to unruly football fans. Many fans of Celtic FC sensed that the criminalisation of songs extolling violence was directed at them and their Irish Republican worldview.

Full report at -

<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/tomgallagher/100257163/scottish-catholics-are-being-desperately-wooed-by-the-snp-they-could-swing-the-result/>

## **Nigerian bishop tells of church 'slaughter'**

**A senior cleric has spoken of how suspected Islamist militants "slaughtered" some 30 churchgoers in north-eastern Nigeria on Sunday.**

BBC - The [Roman Catholic] Bishop of Yola, Stephen Dami Mamza, told the BBC the insurgents had locked the church and "cut people's throats" in Waga Chakawa village, Adamawa state.

On the same day, militants also attacked Kawuri village in neighbouring Borno state, killing 52 people.

Both assaults were blamed on the Islamist Boko Haram group.

The organisation - whose name means "Western education is forbidden" - is especially active in the north-east of the country.

Boko Haram wants to impose a severe form of Islamic law, and has been blamed for thousands of deaths.

Borno and Adamawa are two of three north-eastern states - along with Yobe - put under emergency rule last May, as the military attempts to combat the insurgency.

Full article at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-25927205>

## **Vigils for missing priests in Syria**

**Vigils will be held today in Europe and the Middle East to remember the priests who are missing in the Syrian conflict.**

The vigils are scheduled to mark 180 days since the disappearance of Jesuit Fr Paolo dall'Oglio, who went missing last July near Raqqa, a town occupied by the al Qaeda-affiliated Islamic State of Iraq. He was initially reported dead, although it is now believed he may be alive.

Among those kidnapped in the war are Greek orthodox Archbishop Boulos Yazigi, Syrian Orthodox Archbishop Yohanna Ibrahim, Armenian Catholic Fr Michel Kaygal and Greek Orthodox Fr Maher Mahfouz and 12 unnamed nuns who were kidnapped from Mar Takla Orthodox convent in Ma'loula. Over 100,000 people have now been killed, and 2 million have fled the country, since the conflict began in March 2011.

The vigils will take place at Paris, Brussels, Kurdistan and elsewhere.

## **Archbishops of Canterbury and York write to all Primates of the Anglican Communion, and to the Presidents of Nigeria and Uganda on anti-gay laws**

**The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have today written to all Primates of the Anglican Communion, and to the Presidents of Nigeria and Uganda, recalling the commitment made by the Primates of the**

**Anglican Communion to the pastoral support and care of everyone worldwide, regardless of sexual orientation.**

In [their letter](#), the Archbishops recalled the words of the communiqué issued in 2005 after a meeting of Primates from across the Communion in Dromantine.

The text of the joint letter is as follows:

“Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

In recent days, questions have been asked about the Church of England’s attitude to new legislation in several countries that penalises people with same-sex attraction. In answer to these questions, we have recalled the common mind of the Primates of the Anglican Communion, as expressed in the Dromantine Communiqué of 2005.

“The Communiqué said;

‘....we wish to make it quite clear that in our discussion and assessment of moral appropriateness of specific human behaviours, we continue unreservedly to be committed to the pastoral support and care of homosexual people.

“The victimisation or diminishment of human beings whose affections happen to be ordered towards people of the same sex is anathema to us. We assure homosexual people that they are children of God, loved and valued by Him and deserving the best we can give - pastoral care and friendship.’

“We hope that the pastoral care and friendship that the Communiqué described is accepted and acted upon in the name of the Lord Jesus.

“We call upon the leaders of churches in such places to demonstrate the love of Christ and the affirmation of which the Dromantine communiqué speaks.

Yours in Christ

+Justin Cantuar +Sentamu Eboracensis

See also -

[www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/10605832/Welby-flies-to-Africa-telling-Anglicans-to-treat-gay-people-as-children-of-God.html](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/10605832/Welby-flies-to-Africa-telling-Anglicans-to-treat-gay-people-as-children-of-God.html)